It is the endeavour of the Ministry to meet the target for Hindi Typewriters etc. in phases.

Training in Hindi Typing and Hindi Stenography

†4839. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of typists and stenographers under his Ministry/ Department and subordinate offices who have not yet taken training in Hindi typing and Hindi stenography;

(b) the reasons for not giving them such training so far; and

(c) by when it is planned to give them such training?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) 71 Lower Division Clerks and 43 Stenographers Grade-D working in the Ministry of Power, its Attached and Subordinate Offices have not yet taken training in Hindi Typing and Hindi Stenography, as the case may be.

(b) and (c) Due to shortage of staff and exigencies of work, it has not been possible to impart training to all the officials. Imparting training in Hindi Typing and Hindi Stenography is a continuous process and it is the endeavour of the Ministry to sponsor maximum number of officials during each session of training under the Hindi Teaching Scheme of the Department of Official Language.

Benefit of Information Technology to rural areas

†4840. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated a new scheme to extend the benefit of revolution in the field of Information Technology to the rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, the outlines of the scheme; and

(c) by when the rural areas are proposed to be benefited through its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDARLAL PATWA): (a) to (c) An ambitious programme has been drawn to establish

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Computer Information Centre (CIC) in all 446 blocks in the North-East Slates to promote Information Technology and its application. Another 40 such Centres are proposed to be set up in Sikkim. A pilot project is being implemented in 30 blocks to be completed at an estimated cost of Rs. 15 crore by 15.8.2000. The project will be implemented in the next two years and it is expected that functioning of CICs will facilitate documents storage, information procurement processing and transfer in a faster, efficient and accurate manner.

Tube wells in Orissa

4841. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of tube wells in Orissa are not in working condition;

(b) if so, the steps taken to repair these tube wells;

(c) the steps taken to install more tube wells in 2000-2001 to meet the requirement in that State; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Rural Drinking Water Supply is a State subject. The State Governments implement the programme under the State Sector Minimum Needs Programme (MNP). The Central Government only supplements the efforts of the States by providing funds under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). The powers have been delegated to the States to plan, sanction and implement their individual water supply schemes. As per the preliminary asessment made by Rural Development Department of the State Government of Orissa, there are 9274 defunct tubewells, as on 1.4.2000. The State Government is taking action to replace them in a phased manner from out of State plan allocation.

(c) and (d) The State Government has informed that as per the projection in the State Budget 2000-2001, all left over NC & PC habitations would be covered by installing 2115 Tubewells and 258 Sanitary Wells. Further, 2500 Tubewells at relaxed norm in KBK districts and 500 Tubewells in Primary Schools can be installed. The State Government has also informed that due to meagre resources available under State Plan all the defunct Tubewells can not be replaced during 2000-2001. The State has proposed to install 280 such